REMARKS

SUMMARY:

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13 have been canceled.

Previously rejected claims 2, 3, 5, 11, 12, 15, 16, and 18 have been amended to overcome the prior art.

Claims 9, 14, 16, and 17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. These claims have each been amended to include the base claim and intervening claims are believed to now be in allowable form.

Claim 19-37 have been allowed over the prior art. However, claims 31 and 37 have been amended to correct an error.

COMMENTS:

Claim 1 has been canceled.

Claim 2 has been amended to generally incorporate the limitations of claim 1, emphasizing that the swivel nozzle base is immovably affixed to the pole distal end. It is noted that the base must remain at the pole distal end to maintain a fluid communication between the pole and the head, as required. The examiner has cited Louge et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,894,625 to Vobikian. Vobikian is a mop and mop handle. One would not look to a mop to learn of a paint extension pole. Sliding movement of the Vibikian hand grip moves a squeeze element, presumably likened by the examiner to a spray head swivel nozzle, away from the pole distal end. Applicant requires that the swivel nozzle be immovably attached to the pole distal end to maintain fluid communication internal the swivel nozzle between the pole distal end and the head. Vibikian explicitly requires that the squeeze element move away from the pole distal end and that even before the squeeze element is rotated. Further, because the Vibikian apparatus moves the squeeze element away from the pole distal end combination of Vibikian slide and with the Louge spray apparatus would cause the Louge spray apparatus (and applicant's spray extension pole and swivel nozzle) to dysfunction. The combination is therefore impermissible.

Applicant traverses the examiner's finding regarding claim 3. Vibikian's slide is not adapted to brace the pole. Rather the Vibikian pole hold is a slide that actuates the mop squeezing element and cannot brace the mop during mopping action. Still, claim 3 had been amended to make explicit that the pole hold functions as a brace during dispersal of fluid from the spray nozzle. The combination of Louge and Vibikian do not provide for these limitations.

Claim 4 has been canceled.

The examiner cites Louge to reject claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Louges teaches a belt looping between the actuator and the head. Claim 5 has been amended to emphasize that the mechanical link between the actuator and the head is a rod functionally connecting the hand grip and the head. The hand grip is specified as a brace rotating on a longitudinal axis transverse to the pole at a fixed position on the pole. The rod then holds the head against rotation by the user's first hand on the hand grip in opposing reaction forces of fluid expelled through the nozzle head when the user's first hand is simultaneously bracing the pole on the hand grip. The cited references do not teach applicant's apparatus as disclosed in applicant's amended claim 5.

Claim 6 has been canceled.

Claim 7 has been canceled.

Claim 8 has been canceled.

Claim 9 has been amended to include limitations of the base claim and intervening claims.

Claim 10 has been canceled.

Claim 11 has been amended to include the limitation of the base claim and intervening claim 10 and further amended to include the limitation that all of a plurality of swivel nozzle seals are contained within the swivel nozzle base. U.S. Pat. No. 5,372,389 to Tam does not teach a plurality of seals all of which are within the swivel nozzle base. Contrary, Tam includes exposed seals external the swivel nozzle between the swivel nozzle base and head.

Claim 12 has been amended to depend from claim 11 and further to clarify that the manifold and head are a unitary inseparable whole with a bolt in the manifold at its base end securing the manifold to the base. Tam does not teach a bolt additional to the manifold; rather the Tam bolt in fact is the Tam manifold with threads on its end engaging the head. Applicant does not teach a threaded member engaging the head; to the contrary, applicant teaches the bolt threadably engaging the manifold (inherently requiring that the bolt and the manifold are separate members because a member cannot engage itself). The manifold and the head are one element, connected to the base by a bolt.

Claim 13 has been canceled.

Claim 14 has been amended to include the base claim and all intervening claims.

Claims 15 has been amended in accordance with the drawings, and particularly FIG. 1, to express that the bolt threadably engages the manifold in the base end, terminating within the base (erroneously presented as head end originally). Tam does not teach a bolt threaded into a manifold in the base end and terminating within the base.

Claim 16 has been amended to include the base claim and all intervening claims.

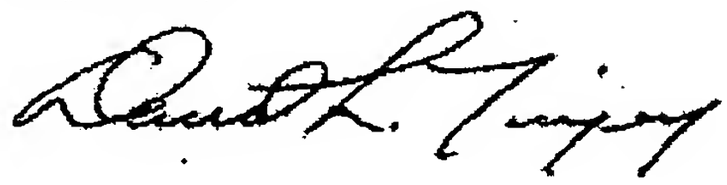
Claim 17 remains as previously amended, depending on claim 16.

Claim 18, dependent from claim 15 remains as presented, which is now believed to be in allowable form.

Dated: February 24, 2005

For Applicant, Troudt

Respectfully,



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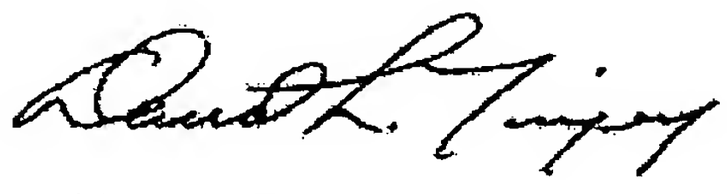

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